

## SMALL GAUGE SURGICAL INSTRUMENT WITH SUPPORT DEVICE

### Abstract

A small gauge surgical instrument is shown with advantages such as  
5 diminished "play" at the tip. A surgical instrument is also shown with adjustable  
support along a length of the instrument that can be selected by the surgeon. In  
particular, very small and flexible instruments for vitreous surgery are shown that  
can be adjusted by the surgeon for stiffness, and so access is possible to all parts of  
the vitreous cavity. Embodiments as shown above are safer, and increase the  
10 variety of cases for which these instruments can be used.

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EV299684122US  
Date of Deposit: January 29, 2004  
This paper or fee is being deposited on the date indicated above with the  
United States Postal Service pursuant to 37 CFR 1.10, and is addressed to  
The Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Patent Application,  
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.